

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT



IN CHARGE OF
LAVINIA L. DOCK

THE PARIS CONFERENCE

THE Conference will be held in the Musée Sociale, 5, Rue Las-Cases, a central and desirable meeting-place, which is, by the great kindness and hospitality of our French hosts, being placed at our disposal without charge. The first session, on Tuesday, June 18th, will be presided over by M. Mesureur, Director of the Department of the *Assistance publique* of Paris, who will open the session with his address, "The Work of the *Assistance publique* for Nursing Education."

As noted last month, the first day will comprise "The Laicisation of Nursing in France," by Dr. Bourneville; "The Early Teaching of Nurses at the Salpêtrière Hospital," by Mme. Gillot; "The Association for the Development of Assistance to the Sick," by Mme. Alphen-Salvador; "The Home School for Private Nurses at Paris," by Mlle. Chaptal; "The Training-schools for Nurses at Bordeaux," by Dr. Anna Hamilton. Further, Dr. Lande, who is a member of the *Conseil Supérieur de l'Assistance publique* and Administrator of Civil Hospitals at Bordeaux, has promised to contribute a paper on "The Organization of Hospitals in the Provinces." It is an agreeable surprise and pleasure to hear that much interest is being taken by physicians of France and Belgium in this educational question, and it is possible that some others of them may contribute to the discussion.

The second session will be presided over by Mrs. Bedford Fenwick, the Honorary President of the Council, in the absence of the President, Miss McGahey. It will comprise "A Hospital Preparatory Course for Nurses," by Miss Nutting; "A Central School Preparatory Course for Nurses," by Miss Huxley; "The Training of the Nurse in the Wards, and the Position and Duties of the Matron," by Miss Isla Stewart; "The Progress of Nursing Education in Germany," by Sister Agnes Karll; "The Status of Nursing in Holland," by Miss van Lanschot-Hubrecht; "Nursing Progress in Denmark," by Miss Saxild; "Nursing Efforts in Italy," by Miss Turton and Miss Baxter; "The Uniform

Curriculum and the Examination for Matrons in Australasia," by Miss McGahey, and the "Hospital Economics Course at Columbia University," by Miss Dock. Discussion will be opened by Miss Mollett.

The opening session of Wednesday, the 19th, will be presided over by Mme. Alphen-Salvador. There will be papers on "The War Against Infantile Mortality" from Germany and France, the work in both of these countries being of a notable character. We have mentioned the District Nursing papers by Miss Amy Hughes and, probably by Miss Fulmer for this session; also the Nurses' Settlement and New York Public School nursing papers, and that by Miss Johnson's on "The War Against Tuberculosis." Further, Miss Breay will deal with "The Scope of the Maternity Nurse;" Mlle. Chaptal will tell of "Assistance to the Wives and Infants of Working-men," and Miss Pearse, Superintendent of School Nurses under the London County Council, will speak of the work of her Staff, while Miss Cartwright will deal with "Private Duty."

On Thursday, June 20, Miss Isla Stewart will preside, and Mrs. Fenwick will open with "The Organization of the Nursing Profession: By its Members: By the State." A "Report on Organization and Laws in the United States" will be contributed by Miss Sly, Inter-state Secretary, and Sister Agnes Karll will describe "The Nurses' Registration Act in Germany." The Nursing Journals whose history has been promised to date are the British, the American, and the German Journals: *Noskomos*, the Holland Journal; the two French Journals, one of Paris and the other of Bordeaux; *The Pacific Coast Journal* and *The Canadian Nurse*, and the Danish Nursing Journal. Replies from Australasia are not yet in.

"The opportunities for Nurses in America," by Miss Van Vollenhoven, of Holland, will be discussed by Mlle. Elston, the Directress of the Tondu Civil Hospital School for Nurses at Bordeaux, who will speak of "International Reciprocity."

Besides the programme, the offers of entertainment are so numerous and so charming that we hardly know how to accept them all. Mrs. Fenwick, who has just been in Paris making arrangements, writes: "There is to be an official reception at the Hôtel de Ville on the afternoon of the 19th; a reception by M. Mesureur at the New Nursing College, in the grounds of the great Salpêtière Hospital; a reception by Mme. Alphen-Salvador, at her Nursing School in the Rue Amyot; one given by Mlle. Chaptal at the Rue Vercingetorix, where nurse pupils are housed in a lovely old convent. Mme. Alphen-Salvador is arranging for an afternoon at Versailles; and the Baroness James de Rothschild has

also most kindly offered delightful hospitality—a visit to the Château of Chantilly, the royal residence, full of the most magnificent works of art, and left, as we all know, by the late Duc d'Aumale to the nation. Then Mrs. Kelly thinks a trip up the Seine one summer's evening, and dinner on its banks, would be very pleasing, the great week to end up with a banquet on the Saturday evening, when no doubt many reluctant farewells and hopeful *au revoirs* will be spoken."

THE CRIMEA REVIVED

A Life of Sidney Herbert* which has caused quite a ripple of attention on account of some new material contained in it relating to Miss Nightingale and her work at Scutari has recently appeared. Current reviewers have spoken of the "grief and astonishment" that would be felt by Miss Nightingale's admirers on reading it, and, possibly, purely sentimental or superficial critics, such as have idealized Miss Nightingale to a plane of unnatural perfection, or the goody-good writers who have in the past delighted to make a Sunday school heroine of her, will be affected by reading Lord Stanmore's declarations that in her letters she displayed exaggeration of others' defects, and intolerance, and his carefully studied attempt to prove jealousy and impetuosity in her.

But Lord Stanmore does not give the impression of being a fair critic, for he has taken, apparently, the following line of argument:

There was frightful mismanagement in the Crimean campaign. Sidney Herbert has had some of the blame for it. He can be exonerated by showing that Miss Nightingale exaggerated and overcolored her statements, and by discrediting her, so far as possible, as a witness.

This, which seems to us an unmanly position, is also a futile one. It was really not Sidney Herbert's fault that the Crimean medical department was no good, and it is absurdly forced and labored to appear to think it necessary to defend him by making all sorts of derogatory criticisms of Miss Nightingale. Mr. Herbert and Miss Nightingale were working together, not against each other. Her accusations of inefficiency against nearly every one in the Crimea were not made against him, but Lord Stanmore seems to think that in darkening the lines on Miss Nightingale's record at Scutari he is vindicating Sidney Herbert.

We do not now attempt a review of Lord Stanmore's book, for that belongs to another department, but we think his pages show in spite

* "Sidney Herbert, Lord Herbert of Lea," A Memoir, by Lord Stanmore. New York: E. P. Dutton & Company, 1906.

of him that there was only one person at Scutari who combined with knowledge of defects courage to speak the truth and clearness to call a spade a spade. There were many there who knew what was wrong, but they had not her fearless courage. One can easily understand the pain her uncompromising statements would cause to men dyed in the colorless dye of statement so cautious, qualified, and non-committal that it might mean anything or nothing; but that was not a time for writing pleasantly or for making the best of things, and we are firmly convinced that Miss Nightingale's language in describing the officials at Scutari suited the occasion. That she should have received Miss Stanley and the second party of nurses so unwillingly is indeed unexpected, as is also the fact of her having offered to resign. Her own side of the story, however, has never been told fully enough for the public to know what all of difficulty and even of danger there was in the situation to account for what may have been simply an evidence of nerve-strain stretched to the utmost.

A MORAL REFORMER

A GREAT woman—judged by her moral courage and services to humanity—died a few months ago in England: Mrs. Josephine E. Butler, who was the leader of the crusade against state regulation of vice—one of the many causes to which Miss Florence Nightingale lent the influence of her name. *The Woman's Journal* wrote of Mrs. Butler:

She was one of the most remarkable women of her time. She led the seventeen years' fight which ended in the overwhelming repeal of the state regulation of vice in England, and she journeyed through Europe, preaching a crusade against it in three languages, and organizing the friends of humanity against it all over the Continent. A woman of frail physique, but of indomitable courage, rare spiritual gifts, a winning personality, and wonderful eloquence, she accomplished this painful and difficult mission in the face of obstacles that would have appalled a weaker character. She and her colleagues, the noblest men and women of England, were assailed with a foulness of abuse and an intensity of fury almost incredible to-day. Under the evil system that she opposed, shameful injustice and cruelty were inflicted upon helpless women and girls, but it was thought to be a protection to "the public health"—i.e., to male profligacy—and all the world of vice and its sympathizers, high and low, rose up in wrath against her. She and her friends were mobbed; they were vilified in the press, in Parliament, and even in the pulpit. Her husband, the head of a great school, a man of the highest character, lost his position because of his sympathy with her work. For years her name was anathema. She lived to see the brickbats change to roses, the hisses to applause. Better still, she lived to see the wicked system banished from England and a considerable part of the Continent, and seriously shaken in every country of Europe where it still exists. During her later years

she was highly honored and esteemed, and the great International Association for the Abolition of the State Regulation of Vice, of which she was the founder and the guiding spirit, will still carry on her work.

THE GERMAN NURSING ACT

GERMAN letters tell us that the regulations for the state examination in nursing under the law recently passed will be made this spring. Each German state will make its own rules, as our American states do; the law, however, is imperial. The religious nursing orders, such as Sisters of Mercy and Deaconess, are, it seems, not compelled to conform, and do not wish to be covered by the new law. The nursing associations that will actually be affected by it, or which it recognizes, are the Red Cross societies, with their nurse-training work; the *Diakonie-Verein*, and the German Nurses' Association. One of the members of the ministry has said that the passage of the act was the result of the agitation for reforms carried on by the German Nurses' Association. The latter organization not only has the disapproval of the Deaconess upholders, but also the hostility of the Red Cross training-schools, from jealous motives. The German Nurses' Association, under Sister Karll's leadership, is stimulating thorough education and training all over Germany, and as nurses learn the principles of economic equality they will no longer be content to slave for nothing for the Red Cross. Sister Karll is taking an active share in the development of a number of new training-schools. Her position is a responsible one, and the "Bureau" of the sisters is a very busy place (see illustration).

ITEMS

THE Irish nurses have brought out the first number of a new nursing paper. *The Irish Trained Nurse and Hospital Review*. It is owned, edited, and published by nurses. The first League has also been formed in Ireland, among the graduates of the Steevens Hospital.

THERE will be an International Conference, with, possibly, exhibits of Red Cross societies, in London next June, from the tenth to the fourteenth. It would be interesting and easy for visitors to attend these meetings before coming on to the nursing conference in Paris on the 18th-20th.

APPARENTLY all that older countries can only hope to secure through bitterly contested legislation the Victorians have been able to do by



"Bureau" of the German Nurses' Association.

voluntary agreement between the hospitals and the nurses' association. The smoothness and excellent results of the uniform system of training and examination established by the forty state hospitals in that country in response to the representations of the organized nurses, are beyond all question. The adoption of this uniform system and standard may well be called a triumph for the principle of voluntary coöperation. There is nothing else like it in nursing history.

A QUEEN'S nurse, says *The British Journal of Nursing*, costs the district which secures her services from eighty-five pounds to one hundred pounds a year. The minimum salary to be paid her is thirty pounds, with an allowance of four pounds for uniform. A striking instance of the appreciation of the working classes for the nurses has been shown by the men employed upon some large railway works, who determined to secure one for themselves and their families. For two whole years they worked among themselves in their hours off duty to raise the necessary funds, and have lately achieved their desire. Again, in many of the manufacturing and mining centres, the men agree to a small deduction, such as a halfpenny or penny a week from their wages, and in one or two such cases they are able to pay entirely for the nurse.

As every one who reads the papers knows, the English women have been making heroic efforts to compel the fulfilment of tacitly-made promises to them of the suffrage by the Liberal and Radical Members of Parliament. Nurses, we are proud to say, have not been unmindful of their larger social claims in this agitation. One of them, Miss Olivia Smith, was among those brave female John Browns who went to prison, and a number joined in the great parade the other day. Mrs. Fenwick, in describing the incidents of the march, concluded thus:

"Altogether the little party of matrons and nurses walking together in rows of four, with their Red Cross badge in evidence, thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and they are never likely to forget the great and enthusiastic meeting, crammed to the ceiling, held in Exeter Hall, to demand from Parliament the removal of sex disability in connection with the Franchise. The array of banners, inspiring music, witty speeches, and, most important of all, the deep sense of human responsibility with which every man and woman present appeared to be inspired, combined to make an hour through which it was good to live."